GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1673
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2008
VISIT OF SRI LANKAN DELEGATION
Jindal Shri Naveen

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high powered business delegation visited Sri Lanka in February, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the areas of discussion with the Sri Lankan delegation and the results thereof;

(d) whether the current status of India-Sri Lanka Comprehensive Economic partnership Agreement was discussed; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (e): A business delegation led by Minister of State for Commerce visited Sri Lanka in February, 2008.The member of the delegation comprised representatives from major textiles and IT companies like Indo Rama, Vardhman, Aditya Birla, Arvind Mills, Textprocil, Virtusa, Qaurto, Mahindra & Mahindra, IOC, Reliance etc. During the Round Table Discussion held between the Government of Sri Lanka and Indian business delegates, various issues of bilateral and economic and commercial cooperation with focus on investment in Sri Lanka by Indian companies were discussed. During the visit of Indian business delegation, the following concrete agreements were signed:

(a) The National Thermal Power Corporation and the Ceylon Electricity Board agreed on a timeline for implementation of the Coal Thermal Power Project in Trincomalee District of Sri Lanka.

(b) An agreement between Mahindra & Mahindra and Sri Lankan Board of Investment to develop a $100 million IT Park at Katunayake was also signed.

The issue of ongoing negotiations between the two countries on Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) was also discussed and noted for early conclusion.